

SPOT ANTHRACNOSE OF FLOWERING DOGWOOD

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Dogwood (*Cornus florida* L.) is one of the most popular ornamental deciduous trees in Florida. It blooms in the spring with attractive, white or pink, showy bracts. The range of habitat includes the eastern half of the United States, overlapping into portions of Mexico and Canada.

One of the more serious diseases of flowering dogwood is spot anthracnose, caused by *Elsinoe corni* Jenkins and Bitanc. with *Sphaceloma* as its imperfect stage (6). The fungus attacks stems, leaves, petioles, peduncles, bracts, and fruits (6,8). The fungus overwinters in the lesions of infected stems and initiates new infections in the ensuing new growth of flowers, leaves, and twigs (10). Rainy or humid weather is believed to be an important contributing factor to disease severity (5).

Spot anthracnose of flowering dogwood has been reported from Delaware (2,4), Florida (10,12), Georgia (9), Louisiana (3), Maryland (7), and North and South Carolina (1). During the spring of 1970 the disease was especially severe on the leaves and bracts of flowering dogwood in Gainesville, Florida.

**SYMPTOMS.** Spots on the leaves are circular to irregular, rather small (1-2 mm in diameter), but very noticeable. They are reddish purple with tan centers and diffuse yellow borders (Fig. 1A). The spots on older leaves have very little to no yellow borders. Spots on the bracts (Fig. 1B), petioles, peduncles, and stems are similar to the leaf spots (6,8). On the leaves and bracts the spots may be few and scattered to very abundant. Heavy infection of the leaves causes them to be reduced in size and somewhat malformed and distorted.

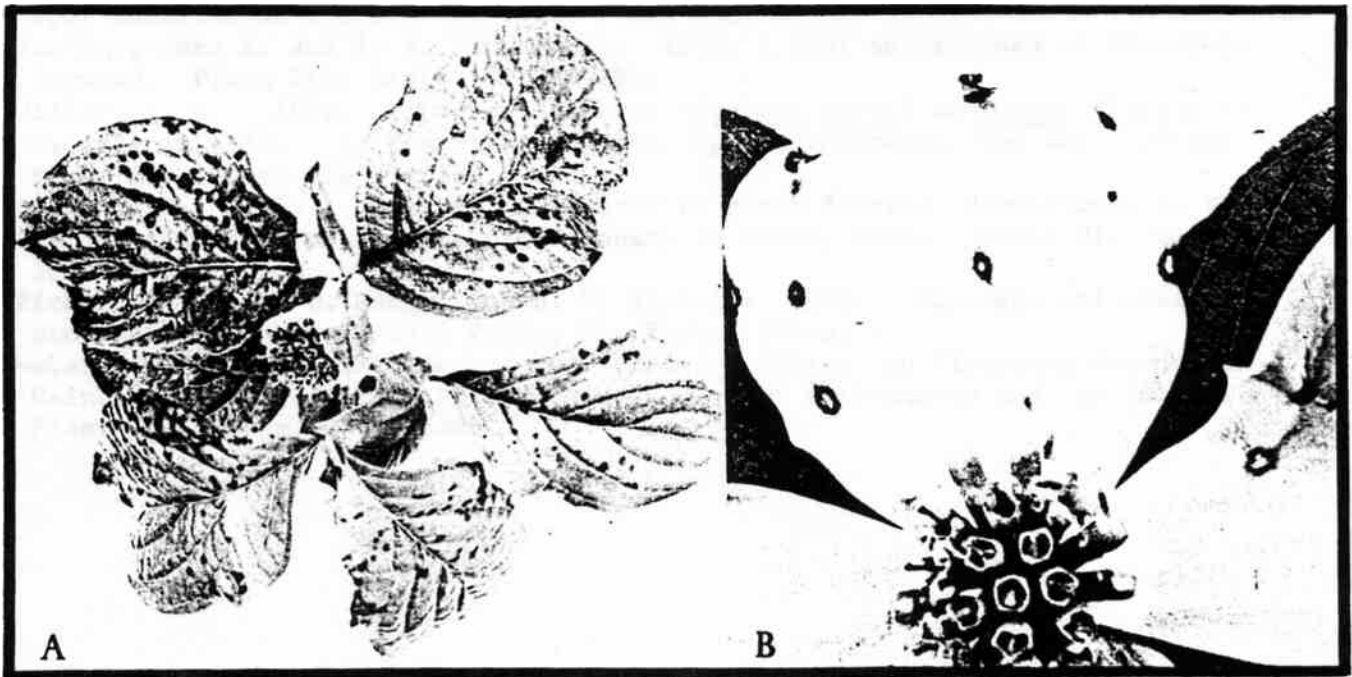


Fig. 1. Spot anthracnose of flowering dogwood: A) on leaves; B) on bracts.

CONTROL. In 1952 Cox and Heuberger (2) in preliminary trials directed toward control of spot anthracnose of flowering dogwood have shown that captan (Orthocide 406) at 2 lb/100 gal or maneb (Manzate) at 1 1/2 lb/100 gal provided promising results. In addition, maneb and zineb are recommended for the spot anthracnose of Viola (pansies) and copper for this same disease on avocado (11). Any of these fungicides should be applied according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

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